

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LISBON 07660 291508Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01

IO-10 AID-05 AF-06 OPIC-03 /079 W

----- 050991

P R 291330Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5457

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 7660

USIA FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PO

SUBJECT: MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS--"O SEculo" PUBLISHED, RADIO
RETURNED TO CHURCH

REF: LISBON 7634 (DTG 241224Z DEC 75)

SUMMARY: TWO FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, REAPPEARANCE OF "O SEculo"
NEWSPAPER AND OFFICIAL RETURN OF RADIO RENASCENCA TO THE CATHOLIC
CHURCH, ESSENTIALLY COMPLETE THE GOP'S BASIC MOVES TO DENY THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LISBON 07660 291508Z

COMMUNISTS CONTROL OF STATE-OWNED MEDIA. CONSOLIDATING ITS CONTROL

OVER RADIO, TV, AND PRESS WILL STILL BE A DIFFICULT TASK FOR AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. RADIO RENASCENCA IS RETURNED TO THE CHURCH--A DEC. 28 COMMUNIQUE FROM THE MINISTRY OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED RETURN TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF RADIO RENASCENCA STUDIO AND TRANSMITTER FACILITIES IN LISBON. THE STATION'S FACILITIES IN OPORTO AND IN CENTRAL PORTUGAL REMAINED IN THE POSSESSION OF CHURCH AUTHORITIES, EVEN AFTER LEFT-WING WORKERS TOOK OVER THE LISBON FACILITIES ON MAY 29, 1975. THAT TAKEOVER-- FOLLOWING WORKER FERMENT AT THE STATION SINCE JULY 1974--SPARKED A LONG-LASTING CONTROVERSY. ON JUNE 28, THE GOP ANNOUNCED THAT THE STATION WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE CHURCH, BUT WHEN THE WORKERS REFUSED TO ACCEPT THAT ACTION, THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL NAMED AN ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL TO OVERSEE THE STATION AND THE WORKERS AGREED. THEN, ON SEPT 20, 1975, THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT SENT TROOPS TO OCCUPY LISBON STUDIOS AND HALT PROGRAMMING. ON OCT 16 THE GOP CLOSED AND SEALED THE LISBON TRANSMITTERS. THE TROOPS DEPARTED. AFTER CONSIDERABLE LEFT-WING AGITATION, THE TRANSMITTERS WERE REOCCUPIED BY WORKERS WHO PUT THE STATION BACK ON THE AIR ON OCT 23 IN DEFIANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT. ON NOV 7 THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ORDERED THAT THE LISBON TRANSMITTERS BE SILENCED. TROOPS DESTROYED TRANSMITTING EQUIPMENT WITH BOMBS. RENASCENCA MEANWHILE REMAINED ON THE AIR IN OPORTO AND CENTRAL PORTUGAL. TRANSMITTER

DAMAGE FROM THAT BOMBING COUPLED WITH OTHER NEEDED REPAIRS AT THE STUDIOS, COULD KEEP RADIO RENASCENCA IN LISBON OFF THE AIR FOR SOME TIME. IN ADDITION, LEFT-WING WORKER FERMENT WILL CONTINUE, EVEN THOUGH STATION OFFICIALS ASSERT THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF RENASCENCA'S SEVERAL HUNDRED WORKERS ARE LOYAL TO THE CHURCH. THE LEFTIST DISSIDENT WORKERS, IN A REPORT PUBLISHED BY THE DEC 27 "DIARIO POPULAR," CLAIMED THAT THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT'S DECISION NOT TO NATIONALIZE RADIO RENASCENCA-- THE ONLY EXCEPTION IN THE PRESENT PROGRAM TO BRING RADIO UNDER STATE CONTROL--WAS INCORRECT, AS 60 PERCENT OF THE OWNERSHIP IS PRIVATE AND ONLY 40 PERCENT BELONGS TO THE CHURCH. THIS OWNERSHIP ANALYSIS, HOWEVER, IS DISPUTED BY THE CHURCH WHICH CLAIMS TO CONTROL THE STATION COMPLETELY.

2. "O SEculo" IS BACK ON NEWSSTANDS: "O SEculo" NEWSPAPER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LISBON 07660 291508Z

RESUMED PUBLICATION DEC 29. IT WAS LAST OF THE EIGHT PAPERS WITH SOME DEGREE OF STATE OWNERSHIP--ALL SUSPENDED NOV 25-- TO RETURN. BLATANTLY COMMUNIST-LINING BEFORE ITS SUSPENSION, THE PAPER RETURNED AS A RATHER BLAND, APOLITICAL PAPER; ITS LEAD EDITORIAL DEC 29 ALLUDED FAVORABLY TO FREEDOM, JUSTICE, PATRIOTISM AND OTHER SIMILAR UNIVERSAL VIRTUES. THE POLITICS OF THE NEW EDITOR, EDUARDO SCARLATTI, AND HIS DEPUTY, MANUEL MAGRO, ARE KNOWN TO BE LIBERAL AND PLURALIST; MAGRO IS ALIGNED WITH THE

SOCIALIST PARTY. NO DECISION HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED AS TO RESUMPTION OF PUBLICATION OF THE SEVERAL MAGAZINES ALSO OWNED BY THE "O SECULO" COMPANY. THE COMPANY HAD A LARGE NUMBER OF COMMUNIST-SUPPORTING EMPLOYEES, MOST OF WHOM HAVE REMAINED ON THE PAYROLL, WHO CANNOT BE PLEASED WITH THE TURN OF EVENTS. THERE IS A POTENTIAL FOR RENEWED TURMOIL.

3. COMMENT: THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT HAS SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT THE FIRST STEPS TOWARD RIDDING THE COUNTRY OF MAJOR COMMUNIST INROADS IN TERMS OF MEDIA CONTROL. IT NEXT FACES THE DIFFICULT TASK OF CONSOLIDATING CONTROL OF RADIO, TELEVISION AND CERTAIN STATE-OWNED PAPERS WHERE LARGE NUMBERS OF PRO-COMMUNISTS REMAIN ON THE STAFFS. IT ALSO MUST GRAPPLE WITH THE PROBLEM OF TOO MANY STATE-OWNED, DIFICIT-RIDDEN NEWSPAPERS--AND WHICH ONES TO ELIMINATE. THE GOP HAS INDICATED TWO PAPERS EVENTUALLY WILL HAVE TO BE CLOSED.
OKUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION MEDIA, NATIONALIZATION, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMUNISTS, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON07660
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750448-1006
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975128/aaaaagvo.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 7634
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS--"O SEculo" PUBLISHED, RADIO RETURNED TO CHURCH
TAGS: SOPN, PO, RADIO RENASCENCA, O SEculo
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006